California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 98-42

For

Exxon Company, U.S.A.
186 Dry Creek Road,
Healdsburg

Sonoma County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. Exxon Company, U.S.A. (Exxon), 2300 Clayton Road, Suite 640, Concord, California 94524 (hereinafter referred to as discharger) owns a gasoline service station located at 186 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg (Attachments A & B). The site has been the location of an operating gasoline station since 1968.

2. In 1993, ownership of the station transferred from Texaco Refining and Marketing, Inc. (Texaco) to Exxon. An agreement between Texaco and Exxon went into effect on January 31, 1998. The agreement provides that Exxon will take complete responsibility for the investigation and cleanup of the site. That agreement is not binding upon the Regional Water Board. This Order does not name Texaco as a discharger because of the agreement and because Exxon has readily complied with Regional Water Board directives at this site. The Regional Water Board may reconsider naming Texaco as a discharger in the future.

3. In 1982, Regional Water Board staff received notification that a release had occurred at the site in 1981 from the underground petroleum storage tank system. Texaco owned the station at the time of the reported release. Texaco installed a recovery well on the site in 1981 and recovered approximately 4,300 gallons of petroleum product by 1985.

4. On November 29, 1994, two 12,000-gallon and one 6,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the site. The replacement UST system meets the current standards. Approximately 750 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed from the excavation at the time of UST removal.

5. Between 1982 and 1994, fourteen monitoring wells (MWs) were installed on the site and in the vicinity. Sampling of MWs revealed the presence of Total

Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether (MtBE) in groundwater within the perimeter of the station boundaries. Currently, 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch of free product remains on groundwater near the dispenser area. The groundwater gradient at the site consistently has been calculated in a southerly direction.

6. In December 1997 and January 1998, at the request of Regional Water Board staff, domestic wells located on Grove Street were sampled. Nine domestic wells were found to be contaminated with MtBE, a component of gasoline. The maximum concentration of MtBE in one well was determined to be 390 parts per billion (ppb). The interim action level for MtBE, as established by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is 35 ppb. Texaco provided potable water to each of the residences where contamination was discovered and initiated the process of connecting these residences to city water.

7. The site is located in the Santa Rosa Plains of the Russian River watershed. The Santa Rosa Plains consist of alluvial deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay. The facility overlies shallow groundwater and is located within approximately one hundred and fifty feet of Foss Creek, a tributary to the Russian River.

8. Regional Water Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin. Existing beneficial uses of the Russian River, as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, include:

   a) municipal, domestic, and agricultural supply
   b) b) industrial service and industrial process supply
   c) groundwater recharge
   d) navigation
   e) water contact and non-contact water recreation
   f) warm and cold freshwater habitat
   g) freshwater and wildlife habitat
   h) migration route for anadromous fish and fish spawning area

9. Existing beneficial uses of areal groundwater, as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, include:

   a) municipal, domestic, and agricultural supply
   b) industrial service and industrial process supply

10. The petroleum discharges to groundwater have caused nuisance and pollution, as defined by Section 13050(m) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code).

11. The discharger has caused or permitted, causes or permits, or threatens to cause or permit waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, and shall, upon order of the Regional Water Board, clean up the waste or abate the effects of the waste, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action, including, but not limited to, overseeing cleanup and abatement efforts.

12. This enforcement action is being taken for protection of the environment and to enforce a general standard as set forth in the Basin Plan. Therefore, this enforcement action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.) in accordance with Sections 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13267 and 13304, the discharger shall cleanup and abate the discharge and threatened discharge and mitigate nuisance conditions. The following investigation and cleanup tasks shall be completed under the direction of a California registered geologist or registered civil engineer experienced in soil and groundwater pollution investigation and cleanup. All work at the site shall be conducted in accordance with all local ordinances, and all necessary permits shall be acquired.

1. Within 60 days from concurrence by the City of Healdsburg and Regional Water Board with the "Workplan for Groundwater Pumping Test", dated March 12, 1998, including acquisition of associated permits for the work, the discharger shall submit a report of findings to the Regional Water Board. A workplan for migration control shall be submitted along with the report of findings. A workplan for a soil and groundwater investigation to define the,

2. Extent of contamination shall be submitted by May 15, 1998. Utility trenches and other potential preferential pathways shall be identified and investigated during this phase of work.

3. The discharger shall comply with the enclosed Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-43.

   If, for any reason, the discharger is unable to perform any activity or submit any document in compliance with the work schedule submitted and concurred by the Executive Officer, the discharger may request, in writing, an extension of time as specified. The extension request shall include justification for the delay. An extension may be granted for good cause, in which case the Order will be revised accordingly.

Ordered by _____
Lee A. Michlin
Executive Officer

April 1, 1998

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